



Bulletin

2003-010B

TO: City Auditors and Town Accountants

FROM: James R. Johnson, Director of Accounts

DATE: April 22, 2003

SUBJECT: Federal and State Assistance – February 2003 Snow Removal Costs

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has advised municipal executive and public works officials of potential reimbursements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for certain costs incurred in the snowstorms of February 17-19 of this year, under grant program FEMA-3175-EM. Officials from your city or town may have attended briefing sessions at the MEMA facility in Framingham, and received explanatory materials and application forms.

I understand that reimbursement claims are due at MEMA on April 30. If all details are in order, FEMA expects to pay MEMA a sum for all Massachusetts claims by June 13 and MEMA expects the Treasury to wire payments to cities and towns by June 30. If the claims require further documentation or research, the payments will likely be delayed.

I am advising that we will allow application of such federal/state funds to deficits in snow and ice removal accounts pursuant to provisions of Chapter 44 §53A, without appropriation. Remaining deficits in such accounts must be provided in the FY04 tax rate recapitulation pursuant to provisions of Chapter 44 §31D, unless otherwise provided by appropriation or transfer.

If such funds are not received by June 30, we will recognize receipt of such funds by September 30 in calculation of “free cash” pursuant to provisions of Chapter 59 §23; this practice is unchanged from that of prior years.